

Notice of Allowability

Application No.	Applicant(s)	
10/036,600	BUSHELL ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit	
Carlos Lugo	3676	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed on April 12, 2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,8-10,19,21 and 30-32.
3. The drawings filed on 12 April 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other Response to Arguments.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to applicant's amendment filed on April 12, 2004.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Louise Wagner on June 24, 2004.
4. The application has been amended as follows:
 - Claim 1 Line 8, change "sais" as -said-.
 - Cancel claims 5,20 and 22-29.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments on Page 10 of the amendment filed on April 12, 2004, with respect to the restriction to claims 19 and 21, the arguments have been fully considered and are persuasive.

As seen in Figures 16 and 17, at least one axially projecting finger (65) engages an adjacent inner end (at 82) of a nut (77) to resist rotation thereof (also, see specification Page 13 Line 23 to Page 14 Line 2). Therefore claims 19 and 21 reads on Specie 2, the specie elected by the applicant in applicant's amendment filed on October 16, 2003. The withdraw status of claims 19 and 21 has been withdrawn and the claims will be considered.

Reasons For Allowance

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record because the teachings of the references taken as a whole do not teach or render obvious the combination set forth, including that the locking member includes at least one actuating element deformable from a first and second position, urging a nut engaging element into engagement with the recess of the nut.

Schwab (US 1,358,586) discloses that the locking member includes at least one nut-engaging element (8) projecting axially from the locking member but fails to disclose at least one actuating element deformable from a first and second position, urging a nut-engaging element into engagement with the recess of the nut.

Also, Rohlin (US 606,582) discloses that the locking member includes at least one nut-engaging element (11) projecting axially from the locking member but fails to disclose at least one actuating element deformable from a first and second position, urging a nut-engaging element into engagement with the recess of the nut.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carlos Lugo whose telephone number is 703-305-9747. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-6pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on 703-308-2686. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-5771.

Carlos Lugo
AU 3677

June 21, 2004.

John B. Wohl
Primary Ex.
AU 3676